



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA Forecasts Annual Cranberry Production

Massachusetts' 2001 cranberry production totaled nearly 1.5 million barrels, 20 percent below output a year earlier. Nationally, production fell 5 percent short of the previous year to 5.4 million barrels, with Wisconsin accounting for 2.8 million barrels. In recent years, the market for cranberries has forced the average price that farmers receive for their crop below the cost of production. Growers will be looking at how the volume of 2002 cranberries produced will impact the price they receive this year. Although, it's still early in the growing season, preliminary reports as of the beginning of June indicate the Massachusetts' 2002 cranberry crop is in good condition.

Every August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes the official forecast of cranberry production for the five major cranberry-producing states across the country. In Massachusetts, the study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Over 80 percent of production comes from Massachusetts and Wisconsin; Oregon, New Jersey and Washington combined control the remaining 20 percent of National output.

**USDA's Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2002 crop.** This annual study is part of a national program to establish official USDA statistics for cranberry acreage and production. Approximately 500 Massachusetts growers will be asked for their help in this five-state effort to forecast 2002 production. The survey is mailed in late-July and non-respondents are called in early-August. As with all our survey work, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with others to establish state and national estimates.

The cranberry production forecast will be released in the **Cranberries** report from Washington, DC at 1 p.m. on August 20, 2002. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics for the entire U.S. will be reprinted in the **Cranberries** report from the Concord field office; the semi-annual report is available on the Internet and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov). All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

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